

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: BRITISH REPORT ON U.S. EMISSARY TO ATHENS

REF: ATHENS 4240

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN FROM AMBASSADOR

1. THIS IS THE PROMISED FURTHER MESSAGE ON THE BRITISH REPORT OF A SPECIAL U.S. EMISSARY TO ATHENS (REFTEL).

2. WE HAD NO CONTACT WITH DEMETRACOPOULOS WHILE HE WAS HERE NOR DID HIS VISIT RECEIVE MUCH ATTENTION IN THE GREEK PRESS. HIS ARRIVAL IN ATHENS WENT PRACTICALLY UNNOTICED, EXCEPT FOR PUBLICATION IN THE ATHENS NEWSPAPERS OF LETTERS SIGNED BY SENATORS MCGOVERN AND HARTKE (WHICH DEMETRACOPOULOS MUST HAVE MADE AVAILABLE) PRAISING DEMETRACOPOULOS AND HIS ANTI-JUNTA POSTURE, ETC. DURING THE PERIOD OF MILITARY DICTATORSHIP IN GREECE, AND EXTOLLING HIS SERVICES IN THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY. THE PRESS ALSO REPORTED THE FACT DEMETRACOPOULOS HAD CALLED ON PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS DURING HIS STAY HERE. (HOWEVER, WE HAVE BEEN TOLD RELIABLY THAT DEMETRACOPOULOS HAD HARDLY ANY CONTACT WITH LAMBRIAS' OFFICE OF PRESS AND INFORMATION.

3. SOME PUBLICITY WAS ALSO GIVEN TO A COCKTAIL PARTY HOSTED IN HIS HONOR AT THE GRANDE BRETAGNE HOTEL ON MAY 10 BY MR. AND MRS. EVANGELOS ANDROULIDAKIS. -2-7)8\$-(8

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IS THE EDITOR OF NAFTEMBORIKIN A LEADING BUSINESS-FINANCIAL

DAILY, AND APPARENTLY HE AND DEMETRACOPOULOS ARE INVOLVED IN SOME JOINT BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.) ABOUT 200 GUESTS, MOSTLY MEN, REPORTEDLY ATTENDED THE PARTY INCLUDING COORDINATION MINISTER PAPALIGOURAS, COMMERCE MINISTER VARVITSIOTIS, BANK OF GREECE GOVERNOR ZOLOTAS, GEORGE MAVROS, JOHN PESMAZOGLOU, AND SOME OTHER DEPUTIES. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, PAPANDREOU, LAMBRIAS AND GEORGE RALLIS (THE LATTER TWO HAD BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HIM DURING THE JUNTA YEARS) DID NOT ATTEND. NOR DID HELEN VLACHOU, WHO ALSO HAD BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HIM DURING HER YEARS IN EXILE.

4. SINCE MY TALK WITH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HERE LAST MONDAY AFTERNOON (REFTEL), I HAD A CHANCE FOR A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH GEORGE MAVROS AT A DINNER TUESDAY EVENING, JUNE 10. I INQUIRED OF MAVROS, PRIVATELY AND RATHER INNOCENTLY, IF HE

HAD HEARD ANY OF THE "RUMORS" THAT SEEMED TO BE GOING AROUND IN SOME CIRCLES THAT THE SECRETARY HAD SENT A SPECIAL U.S. EMISSARY TO ATHENS TO MEET WITH CARAMANLIS, MAVROS AND POSSIBLY PAPANDREOU AND OTHERS. MAVROS SAID "NO", THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD SUCH RUMORS. HE SEEMED GENUINELY SURPRISED BY THE QUESTION AND DURING OUR ENSUING CONVERSATION I CONCLUDED THAT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN HIM AND THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HERE. MAVROS SAID THAT THE ONLY THING HE COULD THINK OF WAS A CONVERSATION THAT HE HAD HAD WITH ARCFVWEHOP IAKOVOS WHEN IAKOVOS WAS HERE IN GREECE A FEW WEEKS AGO. IAKOVOS--ACCORDING TO MAVROS--HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE (IAKOVOS) HAD SEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER RECENTLY IN WASHINGTON AND THAT THE SECRETARY HAD TOLD HIM THAT A WAR BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY IN THE AEGEAN WOULD BE A DISASTER FOR EVERYBODY AND THAT THE U.S. COULD NOT STAND IDLY BY AND LET SUCH A THING HAPPEN. IAKOVOS INTERPRETED THIS TO MEAN THAT THE U.S. WOULD BE PREPARED TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS WERE REQUIRED TO PREVENT HOSTILITIES BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY, INCLUDING--BY IMPLICATION--PREVENTING A SUCCESSFUL TURKISH AGGRESSION AGAINST GREEK ISLANDS IN THE AEGEAN.

5. MAVROS SAID THAT IAKOVOS HAD MADE A SIMILAR REPORT TO
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CARAMANLIS AND THAT CARAMANLIS HAD CALLED HIM (MAVROS) ABOUT IT. MAVROS SAID THAT HE TOLD CARAMANLIS THERE WAS NOTHING NEW IN WHAT IAKOVOS WAS SAYING, THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD SAID SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME THINGS TO MAVROS LAST FALL WHEN THE LATTER WAS FOREIGN MINISTER AND VISITING IN THE U.S. MAVROS SAID THAT IAKOVOS HAD NEVER PRESENTED HIMSELF HERE IN GREECE AS AN "EMISSARY", THAT HE HAD MERELY RELAYED TO MAVROS, CARAMANLIS AND OTHERS HIS UNDERSTANDING

OF THE SUBSTANCE OF A CONVERSATION THAT HE HAD HAD WITH
THE SECRETARY ON THIS POINT.

6. SUBSEQUENTLY, I SAW THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR HERE
YESTERDAY AND RELAYED THE ESSENCE OF THE FOREGOING TO HIM.
THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT THIS SQUARED SATISFACTORILY WITH
WHAT MAVROS HAD TOLD HIM AND THAT THERE HAD EVIDENTLY BEEN
A MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THEM AS TO WHETHER THE INDIVIDUAL
CONCERNED (WHO WAS NEVER NAMED BY MAVROS BUT WAS IN FACT
IAKOVOS, AND NOT DEMETRACOPOULOS), WAS ACTUALLY AN "EMISSARY"
OR SIMPLY SOMEONE REPORTING ON A CONVERSATION HELD WITH THE
SECRETARY--OBVIOUSLY TWO QUITE DIFFERENT THINGS.

7. CONCLUSION: A LOT OF TIME AND EFFORT TRYING TO
CLEAR UP A MISUNDERSTANDING. NO GROUND GAINED--BUT
NONE LOST EITHER.
KUBISCH

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